

Okanogan Board of County Commissioners  
05/08/2018

JD—Jim DeTro  
AH—Andy Hover  
CB—Chris Branch  
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners  
PH—Perry Huston—County Planner  
TC—Tanya Craig—HR & Risk Management  
JT—Josh Thomson—County Engineer, Roads  
BR—Ben Rough—Solid Waste  
DM—Dan McCarthy, Agent, Okanogan County Pest Board  
Kent—a manager at Public Works  
Amy—on the phone from Washington State Department of Agriculture  
SF—Scott Ferman, County Assessor  
Lauri—Lauri Jones, Community Health  
JG—Jill Gates, Public Health  
JM—Jan May, Board of Health  
JW—Jim Wright, Board of Health  
Carol—Carol Bagley  
DR—Dennis Rabidou, Superior Court Administrator

*This is a paraphrasing of conversations by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Okanogan County Watch (countywatch.org). Any writer's comments or explanations are in italics. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, normally published at a later date, see [www.okanogancounty.org](http://www.okanogancounty.org).*

**Assessor's Office**--discussion about purchase of a new vehicle

**Roads update.** Potential flood conditions, Magnesium Chloride flakes, Similkameen Trail washout, Elmway Levee repairs, Guardrail repairs, Scanning grant, Peter Dam Rd repair, Conconully sewer lift station, Rural Arterial Program (RAP) application, Edelweiss Sewer replacement, discussion of upcoming discussion of WATV routes south to Pateros, but not including the Methow Valley.

**Solid Waste update.** Apple Maggot quarantine area change and its effects green waste at the Twisp Transfer Station, CDL training program, Taber land purchase, Landfill liner damage repair.

**Board of Health meeting.** Request to purchase two new vehicles, Orientation for new Board members, Community Health update, Environmental Health update.

**Human Resources/Risk Management update.** Double-bunking in the jail, new trailer being considered for use by both litter control and food collection, trustees working at the fairgrounds.

**Probation Office space request.** Also discussion of security options for the courthouse.

### **10:35 Assessor vehicle purchase discussion**

SF—I asked for bids and we received just one, from Jess Ford, on a vehicle we liked. It's a 2017 Dodge Journey. Including tax, it'll cost \$21,700. I'd like to get the extended warranty, too. The price will still be under \$25,000, which is what's budgeted.

AH, JD, CB—Sounds good.

AH—Have you check with Leah (McCormick, County Treasurer) about cash flow?

SF—I will.

LJ—The board needs a motion to accept this.

CB—I make the motion. (Seconded and passed 3-0).

### **11:00 Update on Roads**

BR—Just FYI, Dan McCarthy & I will talk about the apple maggot quarantine situation with another person on the speaker phone at 11:30.

JT—Overtime report—Last week—5 ½ hours; two weeks ago—16 hours; three weeks ago—0 hours.

JT—We're tracking potential floods. The Okanogan River in Tonasket is tracking right where it's been predicted. It should peak on Saturday. County roads should be OK. Rivers in the Methow predicted to peak on Friday and should be OK. Salmon and Beaver Creeks should not be too big on an issue.

JT—Magnesium Chloride is being used for stabilization. We're using flakes instead of brine applied by a contractor and the project is going well. We water the road first, put on the flakes and lightly water again. The flakes cost just 20% compared to the contractor applying the brine, and it's more flexible because we can do it when we want and we're not on the contractor's schedule.

JT—Similkameen Trail washout—The BLM is waiting for the PUD to say the repair is a priority, and we need that before we'll know funding. We need to have the funding lined up before we ask for quotes.

AH—Could be we use the (unable to record) fund?

JT—I'll call the BLM and try to get this going. With more design time, maybe we could reduce the cost some, but the design costs would be higher then.

JT—Elmway Levee repairs are underway. The Corps hopes to finish this weekend. We used two dump trucks to haul vegetation.

JT—Guardrail repair costs a lot. The DOT has an attachment to a backhoe that drives the guardrails into the ground. We're looking at getting one of these attachments for repairing existing guardrails, not for building new ones. It should be cost effective. We'll try to fit it in the budget for next year.

JD—This attachment drives the new post into the old hole?

JT—Yes.

JT—The Secretary of State's scanning grant was approved.

JT—Peter Dam Rd slide repair. Today we got approval to advertise. We don't want to move forward until we know the DOT will approve the money. Work should start on July 9. Between July 9 and August 24, the contractor will be allowed to close the road for 7 consecutive days.

JT—Rural Arterial Program (RAP) project application. Someone from the County Roads Administration Board (CRAB) will be in the office to review our application. We're asking for two drainage projects and one overlay, but we probably won't get all of it.

JT—Edelweiss sewer force main replacement.

AH—Are the rates not high enough to cover the cost?

JT—They're high enough to cover routine maintenance, but not a big repair like this.

AH—We need to deal with this, so we don't have to find financing every time. When the repairs are made, will they get a fee tacked onto their bills?

JT—Yes. And vacant lots pay half the rate. The Home Owners Association had reserves but they're replacing water & power lines and there went the reserve. If they'd done this project a year later, we'd have been OK.

JT—We're working on the next section for WATV routes. I'll have maps by next week. I'll try to send them in advance and also put them up on the wall.

AH—I went to a meeting with the sheriff, Perry Huston and others about signage. MVCC didn't realize that if we institute a fine, any officer who's cross-commissioned can give a ticket. We can make a map with lots of overlays—where ATVs can go, where WATVs can go, etc., and show the critical areas where fines are double. The riders are supposed to have a map with them when they ride.

JT—The area I'll be covering goes down to Pateros, but doesn't include the Methow. Concerning the reservation, there are only a few places where they want ATVs.

JD—I think we should talk to them about opening up Rodeo Trail. Especially because it won't be a big ask.

JT—But parts of it are over 35 mph, but they're OK with the 35 & under.

JD—Maybe a speed limit change is on the horizon—up to the access road, anyway.

### **11:30—Update on Solid Waste**

BR—The apple maggot quarantine area. We're joined by Dan McCarthy, an agent from the county Pest Board and on, speaker phone, by Amy from the WSDA.

BR—The boundary of the quarantine area is being shifted. We're getting ready to do public notice concerning the changes that will happen at the Twisp Transfer Station. We're applying for a permit to take green waste over the Loup. Green waste must be separated from regular solid waste (garbage). Commercial haulers have to accept it that way or they must separate it themselves.

AH—Dirt, leaves, chips, woody debris, etc. all has to be separated from regular garbage.

BR—So we want to haul solid waste but we can't haul green waste yet until we get the permit. This begins in August.

AH—Commercial haulers would need a separate truck?

Kent—Your green waste would have to be banned. We can't accept green waste if it's mixed with garbage.

AH—But if they have a separate truck, it's OK?

Kent—Yes, but there are just a small number of customers for green waste.

DM—What about collecting green waste just 1 or 2 times per year?

Kent—We used to do clean-ups 1 or 2 times per year.

AH—Two pit sites are going to be reclaimed. Can we use green stuff to use as cover for reclamation at pits?

BR—We've thought about that.

AH—Because you won't need to treat it if you just haul it to a pit.

BR—Amy? Anything else you want to add?

Amy—No. Just coordinating what we've talked about—residential mailers, etc.

CB—Do we have a chipper?

BR—Yes. But does it make chips that will be small enough? We'll have to see.

Other topics-

BR—Road crews. All the positions have been filled except one, and we've got an interview scheduled.

BR—There was a problem with the salary charts for temporary employees. The rates on the chart now are what we've already discussed.

BR—DIVCO does our HVAC annual maintenance. It's on the Consent Agenda.

BR—CDL training. If we pay for a union member's CDL training, and that person quits without working 4 years, we're going to have a Memorandum of Understanding. I'll put it on the Consent Agenda when I get the original. Tanya is working on a pro-rated document for employees to sign.

BR—Taber land purchase. Dave Taber has hired a surveyor for the piece of land he wants to buy. Perry and I talked about it. It'll be surplus.

AH—A non-buildable parcel?

BR—That depends. He plans on putting a road through it.

AH—So you've gone through all the hoops to sell it?

BR—Yes. And it's not of much value to Public Works.

BR—Landfill liner damage. We've been trying to get a quote for repair of the landfill liner that was damaged. It looks like it will cost about \$8,000-\$12,000. Our deductible is \$25,000.

PH—The meeting with the Colvilles is coming up.

CB—There are 2 positions open on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). Maybe the Colville Tribe could get one. I suggest we send a letter to them before the meeting.

AH—I want to hear the discussion.

CB—What I don't want to do is get into an argument.

BR—We've discussed increasing SWAC from 9 to 11, but sometimes it's hard to get a quorum. That's the only problem I've heard of.

BR—The tipping fee data was sent to the tribe yesterday. If they're able to organize their SWAC, Kent & I would like to go to a meeting, before your meeting. What would you want us to do?

AH—I don't think we need you to do anything but I'd like to hear the tribe's point of view. What percentage of the tonnage do they generate?

BR—Approximately 7%. With the proposed fee of \$7.50, that makes about \$20,000 per year.

CB—Do you see the tribe contributing to the solid waste system in anyway other than a customer?

BR—They're customers.

CB—They have their own transfer station that we don't have to staff.

BR—Our tipping fee increase won't cost their transfer station anything.

JT—They said we don't assist with illegal dumping, but we don't assist anybody else, either.

BR—But their argument is that if we increase the tipping fee, there will be more illegal dumping, so we should help with that.

Kent—Two of the transfer station on the reservation are in Ferry County.

12:15 Discussion ends.

### **1:30 Board of Health meeting**

Lauri—Any public comments? No.

Lauri—Minutes are approved.

DH—Vehicle status. Our 2008 Jeep Commander stuck a deer and it was totaled. (Driver was fine.) Plus our 2001 Jeep Cherokee has issues. The blue book value is between \$1,600-\$2,200. Repair estimate is \$1,700. We would like to sell it instead of fix it. We ask the board to approve a new vehicle.

Lauri—We're looking at a Jeep Renegade. We'll get some money from the insurance and the rebate available on the car, so we'd need \$4,000-\$8,000 to replace the 2008 vehicle.

AH—Have you thought about financing the car?

Lauri—We've looking into it.

JD—It's not hard to finance if you've got a big down payment.

JM—I move they investigate possibility of disposing of the 2001 car & with the insurance money for the 2008 car, put that on a new car and finance it.

JD—If you need it sooner than next meeting, we could have a special meeting via phone to approve it.

Carol—Could we get two vehicles?

AH—Find out where's the money in the budget and the amounts for the payments. We need this information before we make a decision.

JD—I amend the motion to include two vehicles.

Amended motion passes unanimously.

### **Financial report**

JG—We've paid all the vouchers and the payroll.

AH—I have a question about a voucher. \$3,000 to the PUD? Is that really the electrical bill?

Lauri—The rent is included in that. \$1,600 per month. The rest is electricity.

Lauri—The Centurylink bill has decreased with the new phone system. From \$600/month down to \$74. But there are a few bugs still.

AH—I move to approve cash on hand, vouchers, payroll and treasurer's report. Motion passes unanimously.

### **Orientation for new Board members.**

Lauri distributes two booklets, "Power and Authority of the Health Officer" and "Welcome to Public Health in Washington State: A guidebook for local Boards of Health".

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/Publications/WelcomeToPublicHealth.pdf>

Also an organizational chart.

Lauri—Dr. John McCarthy, the Health Officer will be here next month. And that's when we'll go over everything we do—as orientation for new members. Also, there's training for local Board of Health members in Lacey.

Lauri—I'd like to recognize Carol for her 24 years with us. She's retiring and we're sad to see her go.

JG—I've got her phone number, so I can call her if I need more instruction.

Everyone but Carol—Thank you for your service!!!

### **Community Health update**

Lauri—There are lots of ticks. Someone with tick paralysis is in the hospital.

Lauri—I'm doing training for intranasal naloxone (to prevent death by opioid overdoses) on Monday for Fish & Wildlife personnel. Also two police officers from Twisp & Winthrop (when Winthrop hires a second officer) will be trained.

AH—What's the deal with fentanyl?

JM—It's 100 times more powerful than Demerol. It makes you quit breathing.

Lauri—That's what an officer was exposed to and his partner had the naloxone and saved him.

Lauri—Someone in the Okanogan Sheriff's Office says they don't want the officers doing the paperwork, but that's just an excuse. Other agencies want to carry this so I'll move on. We also have fentanyl test strips.

Lauri—Flu season is pretty much over, but there's still some in the north county.

Lauri—I'm applying for a grant to bring a speaker back. Dr. Kevin McCauley. He once was flight surgeon for the Blue Angels, but he hurt his shoulder, got addicted to OxyContin, got arrested and went to jail. Now he talks about how it all happened. He talks to judges, police, attorneys, and lay people. A small grant will bring him back because now there's a lot of new data concerning addiction.

### **Environmental Health update**

DH—I'm real busy with applications and I had 181 calls last Thursday. Also, I've got to deal with ground squirrels and rattlesnakes. The squirrels get into the test holes and cause problems.

DH—We'll get new revenue streams caused by newly signed contracts.

AH—On Group B domestic wells, if somebody drills & applies for this, does the Department of Health have to get an OK from the Department of Ecology (DOE)?

DH—No. The DOE approves it first.

Lauri—The Office of emergency Preparedness and Response is coming for an internal review. I'm hoping to demonstrate our communications. We use Zello, a walkie-talkie app. It uses data, not the internet. It's very efficient when all your systems are down.

JD—It uses the old VHS channels, a.k.a. white space.

DH—Anybody who has the code can use the system.

Lauri—You can talk all over the world on it.

Meeting ends 2:35

### **3:00 Human Resources, Risk Management update**

TC—Do you have any proposed dates for the Compensation Committee meeting?

AH—The 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>?

TC—What time?

AH—As early as we can do it to accommodate people's schedules.

TC—What do you think about double bunking in the jail? Sometimes there's no place to put people, especially if you have to segregate people. Noah (Stewart, Jail Administrator) got quotes. For \$3,500 plus shipping, we could house 10 more people. We'd buy fold-down bunk beds bracketed into the wall above the existing bed.

CB—I think we should push forward on this.

AH & JD—I agree.

TC—We're considering a trailer for the jail, to be used in conjunction with litter control and food collection coordinator. The person who does it now is retiring. We have one candidate for the position and a DOE grant that reimburses us for the litter crew.

AH—What's the difference with money.

TC—The job pays \$43,000, including benefits, but it's hard to know how much will be litter vs. food collection. Noah is gathering historical data to see if there's an average.

AH—What's wrong with the old trailer?

TC—Noah knows the details.

AH—We need to surplus the trailer and maybe buy a replacement.

CB—Would it be cheaper to rent a truck?

AH—Probably not. It's a 7 ton truck with a 16 ft. deck.

CB—We should talk to Noah before we decide.

TC—I'll see if there's a time.

CB—Today would be good.

TC—I'll try.

TC—Trustees for the Fairgrounds. There are only a few available. Noah wondered if you want them there.

AH—I hope Fairgrounds maintenance and the litter crew work together so the trustees are where they need to be.

AH—Are we saving money at the Fairgrounds. Appearance-wise, it's good to have at least one "down here" (gestures towards Court House) instead of "up there" (points in the opposite direction).

TC—I asked Noah how one gets to be a trustee, because maybe we could have more. Noah says a lot don't want to work. Plus there are some who aren't eligible—violent crimes, sex crimes, etc.

TC—Veterans' Program in Wenatchee.

AH—There's lots of discord per Commissioner Jenkins against us doing stuff down there.

TC—The Veterans' Advisory Board asked us questions concerning scope. It was their concern.

CB—Forward questions to me.

AH—And we'll see if we want you and Eric to continue.

TC—I forwarded you the email you requested concerning the invoices. Do you have a decision yet?

CB—No. We need more time.

AH—Do you want a formal decision not to pay?

TC—That's up to the Board.

TC—I need a 7 minute executive session concerning the performance of a public employee.

3:23

### **3:30 Probation Office space request**

(Two men spoke, but I was able to identify only one, Dennis Rabidou.)

?—We want to move the probation office to where the WSU extension site was. Also the Weed Board site. We could use the space to hold jurors instead of a courtroom. That way, we'd free up another courtroom. The second area would be where attorneys could meet with clients, instead of meeting out in the hallway.

AH—We've talked about this before. What about courthouse security?

DR—We'd put a security kiosk by the double doors. We just have to do a little bit of work to clear out that area. We could put gun lockers there, too.

AH—What about the current probation officer?

DR—Get Sandy moved. Then the prosecutor has a space to put his files

AH—This sounds like the direction we want to be going. So do it.

DR—It's a priority.

CB—How long will this take?

DR—It depends on WSU. They say they need a couple of days. I'll schedule a walk-thru with Joe and he can see what needs to be done.

?—Let's talk about single-point entry. That's a big decision and there are negative aspects. A fundamental concern is there's no evidence that single-point entry would make the courthouse more secure.

JD—Most single-point they talk about now is new construction and it's build for it.

AH—So would you have one guy with a metal detector and other people patrolling?

?—It's not practical to have a metal detector and everyone in one place.

DR—I'm going to Texas and get certified in Secure Entry issues.

?—Older buildings had so many doors because they were doing public service.

3:55 they leave, as does the Notetaker.